

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present remarks are in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on May 18, 2007. Claims 1-16, 18 and 19 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-16, 18 and 19 remain for consideration and have been rejected.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to note that the head assembly includes an outer casing. Both claims further recite that the outer casing at least partially houses the means for releasably retaining a razor cartridge and a button. In addition, both claims were amended to note that the first and second handle sections are attached to the outer casing of the head assembly. Support for the above-described amendments can be found in at least FIG. 3, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added in making the above amendment.

Claim 10 has been cancelled.

2. Claims 1, 6, 9, 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,795,979 to Perry (hereinafter "the '979 patent")

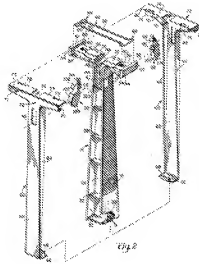
In rejecting the independent claim 1, the Examiner reiterated the rejection of the 2/15/06 rejection. In addition, the Examiner noted that the limitation that "the head assembly [is] pre-assembled prior to being interposed..." is inherently disclosed in the '979 patent because the head assembly "was molecularly pre-assembled prior to being inter-posed." (See Office Action of May 18, 2007, page 2, ¶2).

The Applicants, in light of the amendments to claims 1 and 18, respectfully disagree with the present rejection. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference" See MPEP 2131 (*citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The Applicants have traversed the present rejection of these claims below.

Claims 1 and 18, as discussed above, have been amended such that they now recite, *inter alia*, that the head assembly includes an outer casing and that A) the button and B) the

means for connecting the cartridge are both at least partially housed within the outer casing. The amendment to recite this outer casing clearly distinguishes any interpretation of the claim from being so broad as to include the components simply being “molecularly pre-assembled.”

The ‘979 patent does not disclose the head assembly, as now claimed. The head assembly of the ‘979 patent, as shown in FIG. 2, is reproduced below. As can be clearly seen in the figure, the head assembly of the ‘979 does not have an outer casing that is then attached to the two handle portions.



Claims 6, 9, and 11-16 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over the ‘979 patent for at least the same reasons stated above in connection with claim 1, as well as by virtue of the additional claim recitations included therein. Favorable reconsideration of these claims is requested, as well.

3. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. to Apprille (hereinafter “the ‘551 patent”)

Claim 10 has been cancelled, rendering the present rejection moot.

5. Claims 2-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '979 patent in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,470,327 to Gerber, Jr. et al (hereinafter "the '327 patent")

As noted above, the '979 patent does not disclose the head assembly of claim 1. The '327 patent also does not disclose a head assembly having an outer casing, as is now claimed. Accordingly, the '327 patent does not cure the deficiencies of the '979 patent and cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claims 2-4 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '979 patent in view of the '327 patent, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,184,248 to Wolfe

As noted above, the '979 patent does not disclose the head assembly of claim 1. Neither the '327 patent nor the '248 patent discloses a head assembly having an outer casing, as is now claimed. Accordingly, the '327 and/or the '248 patents do not cure the deficiencies of the '979 patent and cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '979 patent in view of the '327 patent, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,071,857 to Wolfe

As noted above, the '979 patent does not disclose the head assemblies of claim 1. Neither the '327 patent nor the '857 patent discloses a head assembly having an outer casing, as is now claimed. Accordingly, the '327 and/or the '857 patents do not cure the deficiencies of the '979 patent and cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

8. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '979 patent in view of the '551 patent

As noted above, the '979 patent does not disclose the head assembly of claim 18. As also stated above, the '551 patent does not disclose a head assembly having an outer casing, as is now claimed. Accordingly, the '551 patent does not cure the deficiencies of the '979 patent, and cannot render claim 1 obvious. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and is, therefore, patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Summary

In summary, applicants have traversed each rejection made by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and the present application be passed onto allowance.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 504112 in the amount to cover the fees associated with the extension of time. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the present Amendment and Remarks. However, if it is determined that fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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